The State Government is making efforts to boost the exports from the State, which *inter-alia* includes the strengthening of the exports infrastructure through projects like the development of the Export Promotion Industrial Park, Hajipur etc.

Stopping import of inferior quality tea

2947. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop import of tea of inferior quality as this is affecting the image of Indian tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to protect the image of quality Indian tea; and

(d) whether Government have proposed to release of Rs. 120 crores collected by Government in the form of additional excise duty as demanded by Indian Tea Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (c) In order to maintain quality and retain the brand equity of Indian teas, the Government has issued a new Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 under the provisions of the Tea Act, 1953 on 01.04.2005 in supersession of the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 1957. The new Order prescribes strict norms for tea and all teas, whether imported or exported, that would be required to conform to the specifications cited in the new Order. It also stipulates that all tea consignments meant either for imports or exports would have to undergo a certification procedure whereby the quality of tea and the country of its origin would be determined and displayed. The Tea Board would be the nodal agency of the certification exercise. The non-preferential Certificate of Origin in respect of each consignment of tea exports would be issued by the Tea Board or any of its designated agencies. The new Order also prescribes a minimum value addition norm of 50% on export of all imported teas and stipulates a time period of 6 months from the date of import for the export of imported tea. Consequential changes have also been effected in the Handbook of Procedures under the Foreign Trade Policy.

(d) Schemes for utilizing the funds collected under the Additional Excise Duty are under finalization.

Relaxations provided to Uttaranchal

†2948. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the relaxation provided to the new State of Uttaranchal on 7th January, 2003 and after wards by the department of industrial policy and promotion;

(b) the reasons for providing these facilities to the said State;

(c) out of them the factors relevant *vis-a-vis* the State of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(d) whether these facilities would also be provided to the State of Chhattisgarh;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (f) In pursuance of the announcement made by the then Prime Minister on 29th March, 2002, the Government issued a package of economic incentives on 7th January, 2003 for promoting industrialization in the State of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. Under the package, various incentives like income tax exemption, excise exemption and capital investment subsidy to new industrial units and existing industrial units on their substantial expansion in the identified locations have been provided. There is no proposal to provide a similar package of incentives for the State of Chhattisgarh.

Steps for healthy growth of exports

2949. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Indian owned and domestic companies are allowed to export Limenite, Rutile etc. directly, companies with foreign equity upto 74 per cent are required to set up value added project;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.